

ARUA and The Guild Conference - 22 November 2021

Strengthening the African knowledge society: towards more sustainable African-European university partnerships

Speakers' bios



Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, AU Commission

Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor, from Cameroon, is the Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, ESTI and H.E. Professor. She was elected in 2017 as the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission (HRST-AUC). She provided guidance and vision to the HRST Mandate – Education, Science and Technology, Youth and Human Resources from 2017 to January 2021 until the name of the Department was changed under the ongoing Institutional reform to Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. H.E. Professor Anyang Agbor has over Twenty (20) years' experience in the field of Academia. She is a Professor of African and Commonwealth Literature, Department of English. Previously she was the Deputy Vice Chancellor in Charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World (DVC-RCB) in the University of Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon. Commissioner Anyang Agbor has written a number of academic Books and Publications to contribute to scholarship.



Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

Nana Aba Appiah Amfo is the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Ghana. Until her appointment as Vice-Chancellor, she was Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Ghana. She serves on the Consultation Board of the International Pragmatics Association and is also an Assistant Secretary General of the Federation of Modern Languages and Literatures, FILLM (a UNESCO affiliated scholarly association). She co-founded the African Pragmatics Association and currently serves as the President.



Souad Aden-Osman, Executive Director, Coalition for Dialogue on Africa

Ms Souad Aden-Osman is Executive Director of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) and Head, Secretariat of the African Union High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. Under her leadership, CoDA supported the establishment of the African Business Council, coordinated the preparation and adoption by the African Union Assembly of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery, and began a new initiative to increase access to vaccines and vaccinations in Africa. Prior to her current roles, she has supported several reforms in the United Nations.



Ernest Aryeetey, Secretary-General, ARUA

Ernest Aryeetey is the Secretary-General of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), a network of 16 of Africa's flagship universities. He is a Professor of Economics and former Vice Chancellor of University of Ghana (2010-2016). He was also previously Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) (2003-2010) at University of Ghana and the first Director of the Africa Growth Initiative of Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.

He has held academic appointments at the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), Yale University and Swarthmore College in the U.S. at various points in time. Ernest Aryeetey is a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations University and was previously Chairman of the Advisory Board of UNU-World Institute for Development Economics Research (Helsinki). He is currently Board Chairman of Stanbic Bank Ghana Limited. One of Ernest Aryeetey's strategic priorities as Vice Chancellor at University of Ghana was to develop the University into a research-intensive institution that supports structural transformation in Africa.



Nico Cloete, higher education Research Professor, Stellenbosch University and Guest Professor, University of Oslo

Nico Cloete worked at 3 South African universities before becoming the research director for the Nelson Mandela appointed National Commission on Higher Education in South Africa (29915). From 1996 to 2019 he was the Director of the Centre for Higher Education Trust (CHET) and Coordinator of the [Higher Education Research and Advocacy Network in Africa \(HERANA\)](#). Currently he is a Research Professor in the [DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Scientometrics and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy \(SciSTIP\)](#) at Stellenbosch University, Guest Professor at the University of Oslo, and Special Adviser to the Research Centre for China-Africa Education Cooperation at Zhejiang Normal University.

He has more than 100 publications in psychology, sociology and higher education policy. His latest books are [Knowledge Production and Contradictory Functions in African Higher Education](#) (2015), [Doctoral Education in South Africa](#) (2015), [Castells in Africa: Universities and Development](#) (2017), [Anchored in Place: Rethinking the University and Development in South Africa](#) (2018) and

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[Research Universities in Africa](#) (2018) and was a Lead Author on the [International Panel on Social Progress: Rethinking Society for the 21st Century \(Universities of Paris and Princeton\)](#).



Ama de-Graft Aikins, British Academy Global Professor, University College London

Ama de-Graft Aikins is a professor of social psychology and a British Academy Global Professor at UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies. She received her PhD in social psychology from the LSE, postdoctoral training at the University of Cambridge and has held teaching and research positions at the LSE, and Universities of Cambridge and Ghana. Ama's research interests include the psychosocial and cultural drivers of Africa's chronic non-communicable disease (NCD) burden. She has led interdisciplinary NCD research in Africa and Europe and consulted for African and global health institutions on NCDs.



Paul Garside, Dean for Global Engagement (Africa and the Middle East), University of Glasgow

Paul Garside has a long-standing interest in studying the fundamental mechanisms of immune regulation and applying his findings in models of infectious and autoimmune disease. From 1995-1999 he was a Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellow at the Universities of Minnesota and Glasgow developing systems to track immune responses in vivo. He was appointed Professor of Immunobiology at the University of Glasgow in 2002. He then moved to the University of Strathclyde where he was Director of The Centre for Biophotonics (2006-2009) and Head of Research for the Strathclyde Institute for Pharmacy and Biomedical Science (2008-2009). He returned to a Chair in Basic Immunology at the University of Glasgow in 2009 where he continues to study basic mechanisms of immunoregulation applied to autoimmune and infectious disease. Paul has published widely, has been a member of numerous national and international funding panels and advisory boards and is on the editorial board of several scientific journals. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Biology in 2011 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2012. Paul took up the post of Dean for Global Engagement (Africa & Middle East) in August 2018. In July of 2021 Prof Garside was appointed Director of Institute Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, University of Glasgow.



Adam Habib, Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Adam Habib is an academic, activist, and public intellectual. He is Director of SOAS University of London and previously VC and Principal of University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in South Africa. He holds qualifications in Political Science from the University of Natal, Wits and City University of New York.

Professor Habib is a co-founder of the African Research Universities Alliance, an affiliation of research-intensive universities on the continent. He has published numerous edited books, book chapters and journal articles over the last three decades in the thematic areas of democratisation and its consolidation in South Africa, contemporary social movements, philanthropy, inequality, giving and its impact on poverty alleviation and development, institutional reform, changing identities and their evolution in the post-apartheid era, and South Africa's role in Africa and beyond. His most recent books include:

- Habib, Adam (2013). South Africa's suspended revolution - Hopes and prospects. Wits University Press. [ISBN 978-1-86814-608-6](#).
- Habib Adam (2019). Rebels and Rage. Reflecting on #FeesMustFall. [Jonathan Ball Publishers](#). [ISBN 9781868428960](#)



Slim Khalbous, Rector, Association of Francophone Universities

He was Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia between 2016 and 2019, as well as Acting Minister of Education. A teacher for 25 years, he is a permanent professor in Tunisian universities and a guest professor in several universities in France, Morocco, and Lebanon. He was also elected Dean of HEC Tunis - Université de Carthage from 2011 to 2016. He has published several articles in the field of intercultural management, entrepreneurship, and marketing communication.

In addition, Prof. Slim Khalbous is a founding entrepreneur of two companies in the field of strategic development, market research, communication, and ICT. He is also an actor and initiator of projects in civil society and associated fields.



Murray Leibbrandt, Professor, University of Cape Town

Murray Leibbrandt holds the National Research Foundation Chair in Poverty and Inequality Research in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town. He is the Director of SALDRU and ACEIR within ARUA, and serves on the Executive Committee of the IEA, co-chairs the Scientific Panel on Population, Poverty and Inequality of the IUSSP, and is a Senior Research Fellow of UNU-WIDER. He has published widely in

development economics using survey data and especially panel data to analyse South Africa's poverty, inequality and labour market dynamics.



Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies, University of Oslo and Extraordinary Professor, Stellenbosch University

Peter Maassen is professor in higher education studies at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oslo (UiO), Norway, extraordinary professor at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and member of the executive board of the Barratt Due Music Academy in Oslo. His research is focusing on the governance of higher education and science, with a special interest in governance changes in Africa. He has produced over 250 international publications.



Mwapatsa Mipando, Dean, University of Malawi

Mwapatsa Mipando is a physiologist trained at University of Malawi, University of Liverpool and University of KwaZulu Natal. He is a corresponding fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He served as the Principal of the College of Medicine, University of Malawi for 6 years. He has a special interest in building local academic and research leadership capacity that is locally relevant whilst being internationally competitive. He has managed a number of institutional projects and personal grants.

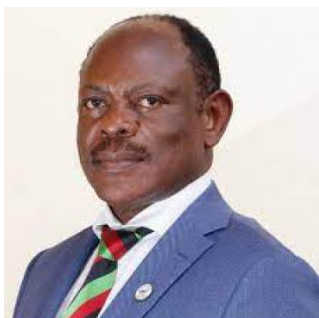
Mwapatsa has sat on a number of international advisory boards. He is currently the Project Director of the Blantyre-to-Blantyre Clinical Research Facility at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences.



Carla Montesi, Director for Green Deal, Digital Agenda, Directorate-General International Partnerships, European Commission

Carla Montesi is currently Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships, responsible for the Directorate "Green Deal, Digital Agenda" since September 2018. Before that (2014-2018) she was Director for Western and Central Africa. Ms Montesi's earlier career encompassed diverse responsibilities in the field of EU external policy for development and cooperation both at

Headquarters and in EU Delegations in Africa, as well as experience in the Cabinet of EU Commissioner Emma Bonino for External Policy and Humanitarian Affairs.



Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University

Barnabas Nawangwe is the current Vice Chancellor of Makerere University. He assumed office in September 2017. Prof. Nawangwe holds a PhD in Architecture from the Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture (KNUCA). He also holds a number of certificates in Management.

Prior to his appointment as Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nawangwe served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance and Administration) from 2013 to 2017, Ag. Principal of the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (2011-2013), Dean of the Faculty of Technology (2002-2011) and Head of the Department of Architecture from its inception (1989 - 2002), all at Makerere University.

Prof. Nawangwe has published more than 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has served as external examiner at several universities within and outside Africa. He has chaired boards of several national, regional and international boards of professional organisations and currently chairs the Board of the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA) and the Resilient Africa Network (RAN).

Prof. Nawangwe is a Registered Professional Architect and has worked widely as a consulting Architect in Uganda and beyond. His research interests are in Vernacular Architecture and Informal Settlements.



Njuguna Ndung'u, Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium

Njuguna Ndung'u is the Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), a Pan African premier capacity building network in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is an associate professor of economics at the University of Nairobi and immediate former Governor, Central Bank of Kenya. He holds a PhD in economics from University of Gothenburg. He is a Member of Brookings Africa Growth Initiative, Advisory Committee of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, and Senior Advisor for the UNCDF-based Better Than Cash Alliance.



Jane Catherine Ngila, Acting Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences

Jane Catherine Ngila is the acting executive director of the African Academy of Sciences. Her teaching and research career started in 1989 when she was employed as a tutorial fellow at Kenyatta University and later promoted to lecturer position in 1996. She also worked at the University of Botswana as a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (1998-2006), and at the University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, as Senior Lecturer (2006-2011) before joining University of Johannesburg, as a Full Professor of Analytical/Environmental Chemistry in April 2011. Ngila is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Department of Chemical Sciences, as well as a Visiting Professor at the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kenya. She currently also serves as the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic and Student Affairs (DVC-AA) at Riara University and is a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences; Fellow Africa Academy of Science (AAS); Member Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf); Member of the AAS mentorship programmes for female university

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students in Africa; the Chair of the AAS Education & Gender Working Group; and Co-Chair of the 2021 Commonwealth Science Conference.



'Funmi Olonisakin, Vice President (Global Engagement), King's College London

'Funmi Olonisakin is Vice-President (Global Engagement) and Professor of Security, Leadership & development at King's College London. She founded the African Leadership Centre (ALC), which aims to build the next generation of African scholars and analysts generating cutting edge knowledge for peace, security and development in Africa. She was Director of the Conflict, Security and Development Group (CSDG) at King's College London from 2003 to 2013. Prior to this, she worked in the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict.



Mahama Ouedraogo, Acting Director for Human Resources, Science & Technology, AU Commission

Mahama Ouedraogo holds a PhD in plant breeding from Texas A&M University. He served as acting Director of the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development and Executive Secretary of the African Union Scientific Technical and Research commission. He is currently the head of science and Technology division and acting director of the department Human Resources Sciences science and Technology (HRST), of the African Union Commission. In these capacities he oversees the implementation of various African Union decisions on Science and technology, including the Science Technology and Innovation strategy for Africa (STISA-2024); the African Space Policy and Strategy, and the Pan African University.



Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General, The Guild

Jan Palmowski has been Secretary-General of The Guild since its creation in 2016. A contemporary historian, he started his career at the University of Oxford before moving to King's College London where he taught European politics and EU integration. He was Head of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at King's College London (2008-12), and Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Academic Vice-President at the university of Warwick from 2013 to 2018.

His wider international engagements include membership in the German Science Council's Strategy Commission (2013-16), and the German Excellence Commission's joint expert Group (2016-18). He also served on the Humanities panel of the Comparative Expert Assessment of Lithuanian Universities (2018), and currently chairs the International Advisory Board of the Université de Paris.

Jan has published extensively about the history and politics of Germany during the 19th and 20th centuries. His last book, entitled *German Division as Shared Experience: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Postwar Everyday* was published in 2019.



Maria Cristina Russo, Director Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission

Maria Cristina Russo is Director for Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I in DG Research and Innovation, with responsibility for developing and implementing the EU's international strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and the international dimension of the Horizon programme.

She has been working for the European Commission since 1992 where she held several policy and managerial positions related to external relations, the EU decision-making process and various EU policies, in particular research & innovation. She was part of the team dealing with technical assistance to former Soviet Union, then member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner in charge of research policy when the European Research Area was launched. She was later appointed Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General of the European Commission holding different positions dealing with inter-institutional relations and policy making, and in the department in charge of consumers' policies and financial services, before being appointed to her current position in 2013. Maria Cristina holds a degree in Political Sciences from the Luiss University of Rome and a Research master's degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges. She has three children.



Bernd Scholz-Reiter, Rector, University of Bremen and Vice-President for International Affairs, German Rectors' Conference

Bernd Scholz-Reiter studied industrial engineering before completing his doctorate in computer science at the Technical University of Berlin. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in the USA and a research associate at the TU Berlin. He served as chair of Industrial Information Technology at the Technical University of Cottbus and as head of the Fraunhofer Application Centre for Logistics Systems Planning and Information Systems before becoming chair for the

Planning and Control of Production Systems at the University of Bremen. From 2007 to 2011 he was vice-president of the German Research Foundation. He has been president of the University of Bremen since 2012. Since 2018, he also serves as vice-president for international affairs of the German Rectors' Conference.



Svein Stølen, Rector, University of Oslo

Stølen is Professor of Chemistry and Rector of the University of Oslo (UiO) for the period 2017-2025. Stølen is the first President of the European University Alliance Circle U. He is also a board member of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities and has internationalisation high on his and UiO's agenda. Furthermore, Stølen is Chairman of the Board of Oslo Science City, Norway's first innovation district, and a member of the board of Oslo University Hospital.



Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean, Makerere University

Rhoda Wanyenze is a Professor and Dean at Makerere University School of Public Health. Rhoda has wide experience in partnerships with academic institutions in Africa, USA, and Europe, has implemented projects with funding from NIH, US CDC, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Fund, among others. She currently leads an evaluation of the COVID-19 response across five countries in Africa and the Partnership to enhance technical support for analytical capacity and data use for HIV, TB and Malaria in 13 countries in Africa.